



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE AGENTS ARREST 19 MEXICAN GANG MEMBERS *Illegal Aliens Members of “La Raza” Street Gang*

FORT MYERS, FL – Acting Special Agent in Charge Raymond M. Connolly, Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced today the arrests of nineteen (19) illegal Mexican immigrants by federal and local authorities in Collier County, Florida. All nineteen individuals are documented members of “La Raza”, a predominantly Mexican street gang organized in the Golden Gate area of Collier County.

The nineteen men were arrested on administrative immigration charges for being in the United States illegally. All are registered members of the street gang “La Raza” known for committing crimes involving narcotics, personal property, battery, burglary and weapons violations.

“We are sending a clear message that we will not tolerate gang violence and crime in our communities. We will continue to work with our local law enforcement partners to get these criminals who pose a threat to our communities off of our streets,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge, Raymond Connolly.

“This operation is yet another demonstration of the continuing cooperation between local, state, and federal agencies whose primary goal is ensuring the public safety in southwest Florida. Street gangs continue to proliferate across our nation, but the residents of Collier County can rest assured that we will use every legal means to keep our region free from their grasp” said Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter.

These arrests were conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Alcohol and Tobacco and Firearms, Collier County Sheriff’s Office and officers from Naples and Marco Island Police Departments.

All of the individuals arrested will appear before an Immigration Judge for removal proceedings. All are subject to deportation from the United States.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibility for a number of key homeland security priorities.

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